

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claim 6 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the recited subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 1, 3, 16 and 17, as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, all claims currently presented are reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a manipulation procedure database in which manipulation procedures selectable by a user are described hierarchically;

a voice output unit which outputs candidates as voice information regarding the manipulation procedures one at a time;

a determination unit which determines a designation of the user, wherein, when ~~one of~~ (i) the user designates a selection ~~during a time in which~~ between the start of voice information output of one ~~regarding a present manipulation procedure, is outputted,~~ and after (ii) ~~an output of the start of the voice information regarding the present~~ output of a subsequent manipulation procedure is ~~finished and before an output of voice information regarding a next manipulation procedure is started,~~ the determination unit determines that the present one manipulation procedure is selected by the user; and

a control unit, which, if a manipulation procedure contained in a lower hierarchy than a present hierarchy containing the determined manipulation procedure exists, controls the voice output unit to output voice information regarding the manipulation procedure contained in the lower hierarchy lower than the present hierarchy, and which, if a manipulation procedure contained in a lower hierarchy than the present hierarchy does not exist, controls the voice output

unit to output voice information regarding a manipulation procedure contained in a top hierarchy different from a top hierarchy of the present hierarchy.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if the user does not designate a selection, the determination unit determines that the user designates a return to one upper hierarchy than the present hierarchy, and the control unit selects a default manipulation procedure of the present heirarchy, which is set in advance, ~~contained in~~ moves on to the upper hierarchy and controls the voice output unit to output voice information regarding the selected manipulation procedure.

4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if the determination unit determines that the user designates a return during a time in which the voice output unit is outputting voice information, the control unit controls the voice output unit to output voice information regarding a manipulation procedure immediately selected before a manipulation procedure corresponding to the voice information being outputted currently.

5-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the voice information expresses a manipulation procedure name selectable by the user.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of buttons which are associated with different instructions, respectively, and correspond to a plurality of fingers of the user; and

a detection unit which detects which of the plurality of buttons is depressed by the user,

wherein the determination unit determines a manipulation procedure selected by the user based on the depressed button detected by the detection unit.

13. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the user can depress the plurality of buttons while positions of the plurality of fingers are fixed on the plurality of buttons, respectively.

14. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said plurality of buttons are allocated to a part of a ten key of the apparatus.

15. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information processing apparatus is a copying machine and the manipulation procedures correspond to setting functions for a copying operation of the copying machine.

16. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when outputs of voice information regarding manipulation procedures contained in a

predetermined hierarchy are finished and none of the manipulation procedures is selected, the control unit controls the voice output unit to repeatedly output the voice information regarding ~~[[a]] manipulation procedure at the top in the manipulation procedures~~ contained in the predetermined hierarchy until any manipulation procedure is selected or a transfer to another hierarchy is designated by the user.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus, which comprises a manipulation procedure database in which manipulation procedures selectable by a user are described hierarchically, and a voice output unit outputs candidates as voice information regarding the manipulation procedures one at a time, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a designation of the user, wherein, when ~~one of the~~ (i) the user designates a selection ~~during a time in which~~ between the start of voice information regarding a ~~present output of one~~ manipulation procedure is outputted, and (ii) ~~after an output~~ the start of the voice information ~~regarding the present output of a subsequent~~ manipulation procedure is ~~finished and before an output of voice information regarding a next manipulation procedure is started~~, the determining step determines that the ~~present~~ one manipulation procedure is selected by the user;

controlling, if a manipulation procedure contained in a lower hierarchy than a present hierarchy containing the determined manipulation procedure exists, the voice output unit to output voice information regarding the manipulation procedure contained in the lower hierarchy; and

controlling, if a manipulation procedure contained in a lower hierarchy than the present hierarchy containing the determined manipulation procedure does not exist, the voice output unit to output voice information regarding a manipulation procedure contained in a top hierarchy different from a top hierarchy of the present hierarchy.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A program stored in a computer-readable recording medium for causing a computer to implement the method of claim 17.

20-26. (Canceled)